

THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL.

WILMINGTON, N. C., FRIDAY, JUNE 22, 1855.

FOR CONGRESS:
HON. WARREN WINSLOW, of Cumberland.

The K. N. Platform.

We publish to day the platform adopted by the Southern Know-Nothing, at Philadelphia. It has no earthly claim to the name of a national platform, inasmuch as it is repudiated by the North. Its position on the slavery question is not, therefore that of the "order," but simply that of the Southern Caucus. The question remains to be seen, how and how far the Southern members will continue to respect the ties of affection, which bind them to their sworn brethren of the North—those marvellous proper men, who have been so energetically indorsed by the American organ, at Washington, and the minor darknesses of the order at other points.—The Philadelphia Convention having demonstrated the truth of the charges of abolitionism brought against Northern Know-Nothingism, and shown the folly of Southern men co-operating with such a party, we presume that even the bragging spirit of Sam will shortly be forced to perceive and acknowledge that the affair is one grand failure.

Let us look at the platform, gotten up for the purpose of trying to harmonize, and see what it amounts to, even if it had received the sanction of the North, which it did not.

First.—Let us look at the religious portion of the creed, as contained in the 8th and 11th articles, for it seems that a confession of Faith formed part of the business of that august body. There is a belief expressed in the existence of a supreme being, an overruling Providence, in the inspiration of the Holy Scriptures, and the truth of christianity; combined, however, with a decided dislike for a particular christian denomination.

Now, in regard to matters of religion and morality, we cannot but think that all men might turn from profit and advantage to the words and teachings of Him who spoke as never man spoke, and, before casting stones at their neighbors, see that they, themselves, are without sin. The grand chaplain of this same K. N. Council was a New England Universalist—a man belonging to a Unitarian denomination—denying even the divinity of our Saviour, and yet he could be acknowledged, honored, and chosen as a christian brother and teacher by those who make it a part of their creed to denounce another Christian denomination certainly less at war with the belief of general Christendom, and to charge that denomination with an alliance which its members, men like Gaston, Chief Justice Taney, and others among the purest and best men the country has ever produced, indignantly deny.

So much for that—now look at its consolidation doctrines.—"III. The maintenance of the union of these States is the paramount political good." What man at the South can subscribe to any such monstrous doctrine? Who is it that will pretend to say that the Union is paramount to the Constitution and the rights of the States—who will pretend to tell Southern men that the Union is paramount to the preservation of their rights and interests?

4th. The suppression of all tendencies to political division, founded on geographical discriminations," etc. And yet the Council that pretended to pass this has already burst into fragments.

We must close for the present. A few more of its beauties are kept for future display.

Messrs. Editors.—My attention has been called to Mr. Winslow's speech, (candidate for Congress in this District,) made a few nights ago in Wilmington, as reported by the "Wilmington Journal," in which he asserts that Draymen in his County, (meaning in Fayetteville, of course, as Draymen are not used in any other part of the County,) are refused work if not owned by "Know-Nothings." As this is a direct reflection upon the Municipal Authorities, subjecting themselves, as well as the Commissioners of the town to just cause, if true, I have felt it my duty to publish to say that Mr. W.'s charge is without the slightest foundation. Fact, June 18, 1855.

THOS. S. LUTTERLOH, Mayor.

We copy the above Card from the Fayetteville Observer of Monday. Common respect for Mr. Lutterloh compels us to believe that it was written without examination or reflection. Its apparent object is to repel a charge never made by Mr. Winslow, as we cannot see what the Mayor and Commissioners of Fayetteville have to do, as such, with the giving of loads to drays at the landing. We do not suppose that these officers employ all the drays in town, or dictate the bestowment of work in that line. In fact, we confess our total inability to see what they have to do with the matter, or how Mr. Lutterloh could have imbibed the notion, that Mr. Winslow's remarks contained any charge that he as "Mayor," had any connection with it, in any form or shape, however the shoe may have pinched individuals. The anecdote as related here by Mr. Winslow, was of a drayman, who could get nothing to do at the landing, and who when called to account about it, gave as a reason that he could not get a load because his was not a "Know Nothing dray." Why, some two weeks ago, we found the same thing common talk of in Fayetteville, half in joke, and half in earnest, the particulars being rather different; something about a man who bought a dray which had already got a load promptly before, but after passing into his possession, was always refused one, because it had ceased to be a "Know Nothing dray." We remember telling it as a good joke, days before Mr. Winslow had said anything about it. We gave it as we found it, as did also, Mr. Winslow.

The only way in which Mr. Winslow's remarks could have applied to the "municipal authorities," would be upon the supposition that they are, and in fact consider themselves a Know Nothing council, and that such is their official character, a supposition which Mr. Lutterloh will hardly endorse, we presume.

We always take the most favorable view of all such things, but there are others less charitable in such matters than we are, who might, perhaps, be led to enquire why the name of Mayor and the prestige of the municipal authorities is dragged forward into a matter with which such authorities have nothing to do. They might even be led to suppose that private individuals might find it convenient to take refuge under the official authorities, for the purpose of repelling something totally unconnected with the functions of such authorities.

53.—The Fayetteville Observer is too shrewd not to see and acknowledge that the late Philadelphia Convention of the K. N.'s, plainly demonstrated the total impossibility of organizing any national party upon the basis of that order. The thing has fallen through. But the Observer is wrong in concluding that because the old Whig party, and the late K. N. order both failed, there exists no element of nationality in politics. Prejudice shuts its eyes to the existence, the strength and the firmness of the Democratic party.

53.—Smith Robinson, the freight agent on the Eastern Railroad, (Mass.) has been arrested for stealing a bag of gold from Jackson & Co.'s Express Car.—The money (\$5,000) belonged to the United States. He was in the act of counting the money, when taken in his office.

53.—Mr. Winslow, the Democratic candidate for Congress in this District, will address his fellow citizens at Long Creek, in this County, on Saturday next, the 23d inst.

The Third Degree, etc.

A great deal of stress has been laid on the Third or Union Degree of the K. N. order, as it has been called. This degree has been read by Know-Nothing Candidates on the stump as conclusive evidence that a Know-Nothing could not be an Abolitionist or a Free Soiler. Now let us ask where was this boasted degree during the sessions of the Philadelphia Council. How came it that so many of the States seceded, and went off on the Abolition track? How came these sworn brethren to break up in a row. Oh, humbug of humbugs! all is humbug.

From the table of the votes on the majority report, it appears that although it received a numerical majority in the council, it still failed to receive the votes of the representatives of a majority of the constituencies. The States which voted for the majority report are entitled to 146 votes in the electoral college, and those which voted against it to 150. C. D. Deshler, of New Jersey, whose name flourishes largely at the foot of the published platform, voted against it in Council and for the platform reported by the minority of the committee on resolutions, a strongly anti-slavery affair. But two delegates from Pennsylvania voted for the platform and five against it. Why, what shall we think of a council in which even the delegates of the Slave State of Missouri are found voting against even the milk and water platform of the majority of the committee, and going for the anti-slavery platform of the minority of said committee.

The platform—the third degree—the Philadelphia Council—and, in fact, the whole affair, generally and particularly, may be said to be in a state of rapid evaporation and disappearance, and the sooner the better. Neither platform nor degree appear to be worth the paper upon which they are printed. They amount to a compact which binds only on one side, and is therefore void and valueless. Sixteen States representing the majority of the constituencies, voted against the platform. Twelve States seceded from the Council, and the other members who opposed the platform, but did not choose to secede from the Council, entered a protest against it, denying its authority and obligation.

But even supposing that the North had assented to the so-called "platform," it amounts to nothing but a slippery non-committalism, where it means anything fair, and is positive and unmistakable only where it advocates the rankest consolidation. In a previous article we have shown where it makes the maintenance of the Union the paramount political good—paramount to the rights of the States, of the Constitution, and of the South.

Article IV. puts forward the doctrine that the Supreme Court is not simply the Supreme legal, but the Supreme political tribunal, and has the power and right to decide upon questions of States' rights, arising between the Federal authority and any of the State Governments. This doctrine would totally degrade the States from the position of Sovereigns, and merge them into mere provinces, having no authority to judge of their own rights, under the Constitution, and without any power to redress their grievances. This is the most perfect flower, the most sublimated essence of New England Federalism of the John Adams era. After this it is folly for the Council to pretend to the preservation of their rights and interests?

2. "A tender and sacred regard for those acts of statesmanship, which are to be contradistinguished from acts of ordinary legislation, by the fact of their being of the nature of compacts and agreements; and so, to be considered a fixed and settled national policy."

Put in to hit a side blow at the repeal of the Missouri Compromise—to fool the South and honey-fugle the North.

"Disgust for the wild hunt after office, which characterizes the age."

Of course, and their candidates in this State are bright and brilliant examples of this disgust, especially the candidate in this district. Can anybody tell when at any time, Mr. Reid has not been a candidate or applicant for some sort of office or appointment? He is about a fair specimen of K. N. disgust for office-hunting.

"Admiration of the maxim that 'office should seek the man, and not man the office.'"

Why tell they keep hitting at their own men, especially at their standard-bearer, in this district. The offices don't come along and most of the Know-Nothing politicians are anxious on the subject—fired waiting, and since the mountain won't come to Mahomet—why Mahomet must come to the mountain.

Let us look at the slavery portion of the platform. Few are unaware of the fact, that the great difference in regard to slavery, has had reference to the power of the general government to legislate upon the subject of slavery in the territories. The famous or infamous Wilmot Proviso, was no more and no less than an attempt to assert and exercise that power in the prohibition of slavery from the new territories acquired from Mexico. The high, true, safe and constitutional ground is that Congress has not the power to do any such thing, and it is thus that the Democratic party has met the issue. But the K. N. platform not only shrinks from taking open and manly ground, but "expressly predestinates any expression of opinion upon the power of Congress to establish or prohibit slavery in any territory." Admit or fail to deny and resist the power of Congress in this matter, and you yield the whole question. You abandon your strong constitutional ground, and if you admit or fail to deny that the North may do so, you must be aware that through their numbers they can.

And this lame and impotent conclusion is the strongest point to which the courage of Southern K. N.'s could be screwed. This is the best that even a minority could be got to sanction. The representatives of a majority of the Constituencies and four-fifths of the Know Nothing strength split off even from this!

Disgust! Platform!! Disgust for office hunting!! Shilly-Shally!!! Messrs. Reid & Co.!!!! Humbug!!!!

Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

It has leaked out that, although the Pennsylvania delegation did not secede from the K. N. Convention, and even appear on the face of things to go for the majority platform, that in fact, it is in appearance only. Ex-Governor Johnson and three of the Pennsylvania delegation were in favor of the minority (abolition) report, and two in favor of the majority (milk and water). Johnson says he will submit the whole affair to the State Council. That council will assuredly reject anything that does not go the whole anti-Southern figure. New Jersey is in the same position. The delegates go for the platform subject to the ratification of the State Convention, a sort of quasi conditional going for the platform, which is equivalent to going against it, as there is no doubt of the action of the State Convention. Thus it appears that the whole order at the North has gone off bodily from the national order.

It is reported that in the course of the debate at Virginia said:

"Your Northern elections are all through with; you have carried them; now give us the majority platform and we will sweep the South, and before your elections come round again the Kansas question will be settled."

If this be not as pretty a piece of humbug as one need ask to see or hear tell of in a day's journey, we are no judge of the article, and it has been our business to expose a good deal of it.

53.—The Herald of Tuesday enquires eagerly about the National Democratic party. "Where is the National Democratic party?" says the Herald. In reply we would remark that it has its existence in the great conservative heart of the people. It is with the glorious 27,000 in New Hampshire, who so nobly struggled against Know-Nothingism, and all the other isms led on by John P. Hale, the notorious abolitionist, and who, if they were defeated, still held on to their principles. It is with the noble national men of Connecticut, who almost stemmed the torrent and came near outnumbering the fusion of rascality in that State. It is with Douglas and the national men of Illinois, with Cass and his friends in Michigan, with the re-awakening Democracy all through the North. At the South, where is it not? In defence of constitutional liberty and the rights of the South, even the former opponents of Democracy feel compelled to act with it, and against the rapidly exploding fanaticism of the day. Where is the National Democratic party? Where isn't it, except among the members of the late Massachusetts Legislature. There it had not and never will have a hold. Joe Hiss despises it, and Mrs. Patterson will none of it. Ask Virginia about the National Democratic party.

The Columbia Times, quoted by the Herald with so much action against the Democratic party, is a Know-Nothing concern, and if it, being so, pretends to be a Democratic paper, why it simply tells an untruth knowingly. That's all.

Taking advantage of the deeply rooted feeling of opposition to the doctrine of the Catholic Church, so general in a State like this, where the people are so overwhelmingly protestant as in North Carolina, it has been the policy of the advocates of Know-Nothingism to convey the impression that the Democratic party is pro-Catholic in its tendencies, or has some connection with the doctrines of that denomination, although those who try to create that impression must be aware that such is not the fact. There is not a Democratic candidate in the State who is not a Protestant, both by persuasion and early training. Not one who is a whit more favorable to the religious tenets of Catholicism than the most bigoted Know-Nothing. Nay, we do not know of an organ of the Democratic party in the State which is not edited and controlled by Protestants of various denominations, some being church-members and some not, as the case may be. But Democrats know that men's religious belief is a thing with which politics have nothing to do. That politics and religion cannot be mixed up one with the other without mutual injury, and that any attempt to so mix them up is against the intent of the framers of our government, at war with the genius of our country, and dangerous to the permanency of our institutions. It is religious intolerance and proscription that the Democratic party attacks—not Catholicism that it defends. That it has nothing to do with, leaving such questions to the parties to whom they belong—the religious denominations and their pastors.

53.—Coroner Hartsfield held an inquest Wednesday over the dead body of a man named John Jacob Walser, a native of Switzerland, who was capsized in a boat on the North East River on Sunday last and drowned. Verdict in accordance with the above facts.

53.—D. B. Cutlar, Esq., has accepted the invitation of the "Wilmington Light Infantry" to deliver an address before them on the 4th of July.

[For the Journal.] A meeting was held at the Court House last evening, for the purpose of organizing the Wilmington Library Association, and to receive the report of the Committee appointed at a previous meeting, on the Constitution. The report was read twice, and adopted on its 2d reading. The following persons were elected permanent officers of the association for the ensuing year: Dr. Jas. H. Dickson, President; Geo. Davis, Vice President; Directors: G. J. McKee, Dr. R. Drane, R. H. Cowan, J. G. Wright, Jno. A. Taylor, S. D. Wallace, and E. D. Hall. The Treasurer, Librarian, Secretary, and Committees, will be appointed by the Board of Directors.

The meeting was addressed by Messrs. Geo. Housatonic, Col. Jno. McKee and E. D. Hall. The meetings, in future, will be held at the Commodore's Hall, which was kindly tendered to us by the Mayor.

On motion of Dr. Thos. B. Carr, Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be published in all of the town papers.

On motion, the meeting adjourned.

WM. R. UTLEY, Sec'y. J. G. MCKEE, Pres't.

June 20, 1855.

District Convention. We learn from the Newbern News that the Democratic Convention for this Congressional District assembled in that town on Thursday last week, and that Col. Thos. Ruffin, our former representative was unanimously nominated. Every county was represented in the Convention but two. It is stated that harmony prevailed during its deliberations. The intelligence was received here with much satisfaction, and we accordingly hoist our banner in the full assurance of a glorious triumph.—Tarboro' Southerner.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT FROM CUBA.—The Havana correspondent of the Journal of Commerce, under date of June 4, writes:

"In relation to the rumor that propositions had been authorized to be made on the part of the creoles of Cuba for the manumission of their slaves to the abolitionists of the United States, and asking the protection of Great Britain in certain relations of a political character which may be combined therewith, I have reason to believe, from investigation of the past few days, that it has good foundation. This will involve new matters for the sober and serious consideration of your statesmen, of the truth of which they will soon have abundant evidence, and the promissory shadowings of irresponsible news writers."

"The steamer Fulton is in port, but may leave at any moment, and we have no definite advice as to when or where the Gulf squadron will take their summer quarters. The British squadron are still out, with the exception of the schooner Scorpion, Parsons, yet at her anchorage."

DISCUSSION AT SUMMERVILLE.—We learn that a discussion took place at Summerville, Harnett county, on Tuesday last, between David Reid, Esq., the know-nothing candidate, and Bartholomew Fuller, Esq., of this place. No account of the debate has been furnished us, but we understand Mr. Fuller displayed much ability in his reply to Mr. Reid, and exposed the dangerous tendencies of know-nothingism in a manner that carried conviction to the minds of all present who were disposed to be convinced of error. Some of Mr. Reid's ardent supporters speak of Mr. Fuller's effort on this occasion in the most eulogistic terms.

We are pleased to learn that fifty or sixty persons have withdrawn from a know-nothing council held at the upper part of Harnett county. That's right, gentlemen, come out and assert your privilege to vote for whom you please, untrammelled by an oath-bound party.—Carolinian.

A SLAVE BORN OF A WHITE WOMAN FREED BY A VIRGINIA COURT.—The Richmond Enquirer of the 12th inst., gives the following account of a very interesting case which has been decided in the Botetourt Circuit Court: "Eliza Crawford and five children, colored, suing for their freedom. Their case was decided in favor of the plaintiffs; the evidence being full and complete that the chief plaintiff, Eliza, was born of a white woman of Georgia. She is now about thirty-five years of age, and has been in slavery between fifteen and twenty years. Her appearance indicates that her father was a mixture of African and Indian. She is now the mother of six children, all of whom were plaintiffs, except the eldest who never belonged to defendant, and who, it is said, will now be at liberty without resistance. There was no evidence, however, to show that the defendant was in any way privy to, or accountable for the injustice done the plaintiffs."

The National Know-Nothing Convention.

The deep interest which has been felt by all parties in the deliberations of the National Know-Nothing Convention in Philadelphia, has induced us to appropriate considerable space to the publication of the reports of its proceedings. We give here another column of the proceedings, and we give another column on the subject of Slavery, the adoption of which, as will be seen by the dispatch on our first page, was the cause of a split in the Convention, and the withdrawal of the delegate from most of the free States—of all, we believe, from the States in which the new party is in the ascendancy.

Although this result was not unexpected by us, nevertheless there is something melancholy and alarming in the condition of Northern sentiment and feeling which it discloses. In it we have another striking demonstration of the fact that Know-Nothingism at the North is in deadly hostility to the institutions and rights of the South, and another solemn admonition that the time is rapidly approaching when the question is to be determined whether those rights and institutions can be maintained by us under the Constitution, and within the pale of our political Union. The Methodist church, the old Whig party, and now the Know-Nothings—one after another the national unities by which our people were once bound together, have been dissolved, leaving only the ties of race and blood, and the swelling tide of inveterate sectionalism which threatens to overwhelm the Constitution, and rend the Union in fragments. The Know-Nothings of the North must now become a sectional, one idea party. They will absorb the Abolition party, the Free Soil party, and all but the conservative element in the old Whig party. Thus must be the North. We may be united, but will find resistance at home, in that party which still preserves its unity with the South, and its devotion to the Constitution and the Union. In that party at the North, sustained by the United States, rests the last and only hope of the Union. A sectional party here would not strengthen us, while it would destroy that unity, and drive from our bosoms the men of all sections, who may be united on one party at the South, on the principles of the Georgia platform adopted by the Democratic party, and not dispute ourselves with constitutional men in the North. Is it not our policy, in view of the approaching crisis to cease our divisions, dismiss our prejudices, and by uniting upon a recognized national platform, invite and encourage the co-operation of the men of all sections, in maintaining the Constitution—the only guarantee of our own and their rights in the Union? We believe it is. And we believe further that the man who in the present crisis counsels divisions, and issues not of vital importance, is—it may be unwittingly—an enemy to the South and the Union!—Savannah, Ga., Morning News (Independent).

By the last steamer we received a letter, of which the following is an extract:

OFF SEBASTOPOL, May 6, 1855.

We left this place on Thursday last with thirty line of battle and other ships, with 17,000 troops on board. We started as if for Odessa, and at midnight altered our course for Kertch, expecting a severe action on the morrow. We were to land the troops in the evening. We cleared for action, took our topmasts and topgallant yards down, and made a strong network of ropes aloft to prevent the spars, when shot away, from falling down upon and crushing us. Every man had his orders from the doctor what to do in case of being wounded; beds were got ready, and the chests and trunks were taken down, and all were ready and anxious for what we expected would prove a hard-fought action. I wrote a kind of will, saying what I wished to have done with my things if I was killed. In the morning all the ships had arrived, and we were quite ready, with longings hearts, to begin, when the admiral made a signal to hold a council of war. Then all our plans were altered; the English admiral had been recalled, and with him went the troops, which we could not do without, all I can add is that all was given up, and we returned to our old quarters."

Thus ingloriously ended the Kertch expedition, as reported by the last steamer. It appears now that its object is actually accomplished, and the town has fallen into the hands of the allies. It is certainly a great success for the English fleet, and a great blow to the Russian position on the west side of the Straits of Yenikale, it commands the only communication between the sea of Azoff and the Black Sea. According to McCulloch, in the outer road, five or six miles from town, there are 19 feet of water; in the inner bay, there are 14 feet, and in the outer road, 9 to 12 feet. As the case with most of the Russian fortified towns on the Black Sea, its population is not great, but being the principal means of communication of a large portion of Russia with the commercial world, it has long been considered a place of great importance. In its vicinity have been established foundries for the manufacture of munitions of war, and granaries for the support of the army and navy. To say nothing of the loss of the vessels sunk in the harbor, and the stores and magazines deliberately destroyed, that they might not fall into the hands of the enemy, the loss of the town must be sorely felt.

To the Allies, as we said above, its acquisition is very important. It gives them command of the Sea of Azoff, as well as of the Black Sea, already their vessels of war are cruising there. What can be made of this advantage remains to be seen. It is possible, as stated in the despatch that it will exert an important influence upon the operations of the siege. Certainly the Russians will by it be cut off from one of their best sources of supply.

FROM THE RANKS.—It seems to be accepted as an axiom that this country first furnished examples of great men, in the various walks of life rising to their proud position, from what are called the "lower ranks." No nation could be more mistaken; the same has been the case ever since the world was a world, and will be so even until the end.

Epictetus, the ancient philosopher, whose origin was obscure, and of no one could tell, was himself, where he was born, lived in Rome in a hut which could not afford a door, and without furniture or bed, obliging him to sleep and compose immortal productions squatted on the ground beside an earthen lamp, which sold for \$500 after his death for the good it had done; William Shakespeare was originally a poor boy, a butcher's son, and a famous revolutionary war, was a blacksmith; John Chandler, of the same trade; Benjamin Franklin, a printer; Roger Sherman, a shoemaker; two of the five who drew up our Declaration of Independence were mechanics; George Fox, founder of Quakerism, was a cobbler; Andrew Jackson, a poor farmer; General Washington, a surveyor and wheelwright on a farm; Robert Burns was a ploughman; Christopher Columbus, a wool comber; a barber; Isaac Watts, an instrument maker; Robert Bloomfield, the poet, was a farmer's boy; a cobbler; George Washington, the great statesman, was a surveyor; Wm. Pascal, author of "Lorenzo de Medici," was born in a hut and struggled through unusual difficulties to immortal fame; Dr. Samuel Johnson, the literary Colossus, was a book pedler and country schoolmaster; Dr. Mark Andes, author of "Pleasures of Imagination," like Cardinal Wolsey, was the son of a butcher, and was made a peer; John Banyan, author of "Pilgrim's Progress," was a traveling tinker, and composed that work amid the difficulties of unjust imprisonment; Samuel Butler, before he wrote "Hudibras," was footman to Sir S. Luke; Thomas Chatterton, a most astonishing but unfortunate genius, was educated at a charity school; Captain James Cook, the English circumnavigator, was a petty tradesman; and the great business; De Foe, author of "Robinson Crusoe," was bred a stocking weaver.

In this country the case is stronger than elsewhere, probably because of the peculiar cast of our institutions—all our great men came from the lowest ranks, but the rule is the same in all countries and in all times.

SUPREMACY COURT.—The following gentlemen have been licensed to practice in the Superior courts of this State:

W. S. Winder, Orange county.
Loverd Eldridge, Johnson county.
Claudius B. Sanders, do.
DeBruz Cutlar, New Hanover county.
John L. Wooster, do.
A. J. Rogers, Warren county.
R. W. Waddell, Chatham county.
W. G. Gabbury, Pasquotank.
John W. Hays, Granville county.
Julius Guion, Wake county.
Robert H. Sanford, Cumberland.
Andrew G. Baskin, Rowan county.
Malachi Haughton, Chowan county.

XIII.—The policy of the government of the United States in relation to foreign governments is to exact justice from the strongest and do justice to the weakest; restraining, by all the power of the government, all its citizens from interference with the

The Know-Nothing Convention.

This body concluded its business on Friday night, and adjourned sine die. The 22d of February, 1856—Washington's birthday—was, it is said, fixed as the day for an American Convention, to assemble in Philadelphia, to nominate a candidate for President and Vice President. The delegates are to be selected by the State Councils—and each State is to have the number of its vote in the electoral college.

The next act of the convention was the passage of a resolution condemnatory of the present administration.

The next session is to be held in the city of New York, on the first Tuesday in June next.

The following is the "Platform and Principles" adopted by the convention:

PLATFORM AND PRINCIPLES.

I.—The acknowledgment of that Almighty Being, who rules over the Universe—who presides over the councils of nations—who conducts the affairs of men, and who, in every step by which we have advanced to the character of an independent nation, has distinguished us by some token of providential agency.

II.—The cultivation and development of a sentiment profoundly intense American feeling; of passionate attachment to our country, its history and its institutions; of admiration for the purer days of our national existence; of veneration for the heroism that precipitated our revolution; of wisdom and patriotism that framed our constitution and first successfully applied its provisions.

III.—The maintenance of the union of these United States as the paramount political good; or, to use the language of Washington, "the primary object of patriotic desire." And hence:

1st. Opposition to all attempts to weaken or subvert it.

2d. Uncompromising antagonism to every principle of policy that endangers it.

3d. The adequacy of an equitable adjustment of all political differences which threaten its integrity or perpetuity.

4th. The suppression of all tendencies to political divisions, founded on geographical discriminations, or on the belief that there is a real difference of interests and views "between the various sections of the Union."

5th. The full recognition of the rights of the several States, as expressed and reserved in the Constitution: and a careful avoidance, by the general government, of all interference with their rights by legislative or executive action.

IV.—Obsequious to the constitution of these United States, as the supreme law of the land, sacredly obligatory upon all its parts and members; and steadfast resistance to the spirit of innovation upon its principles, however specious the pretext. Avowing that in all doubtful or disputed points it may only be legally ascertained and expounded by the judicial power of the United States.

And as a corollary to the above:

1. A habit of reverential obedience to the laws, whether national, State or municipal, until they are either repealed or declared unconstitutional by the proper authority.

2. A tender and sacred regard for those acts of statesmanship, which are to be contradistinguished from acts of ordinary legislation, by the fact of their being of the nature of compacts and agreements; and so, to be considered a fixed and settled national policy.

V.—A radical revision and modification of the laws regulating immigration, and the settlement of immigrants. Offering to the honest immigrant who, from love of liberty or hatred of oppression, seeks an asylum in the United States, a friendly reception and protection. But unqualifiedly condemning the transmission to our shores of felons and paupers.

VI.—The essential modification of the naturalization laws. The repeal by the legislatures of the respective States of all State laws allowing foreigners not naturalized to vote. The repeal, without retroactive operation, of all acts of Congress, making grants of land to unnaturalized foreigners, and allowing them to vote in the territories.

VII.—Hostility to the corrupt means by which the leaders of party have hitherto forced upon us our rulers and our political creeds. Implacable enmity against the present demoralizing system of rewards for political subservience, and of punishments for political independence. Disgust for the wild hunt after office, which characterizes the age.

VIII.—Resistance to the aggressive policy and corrupting tendencies of the Roman Catholic Church in our country, by the extension to all political stations—executive, legislative, judicial or diplomatic—of those only who do not hold civil allegiance, directly or indirectly, to any foreign power, whether civil or ecclesiastical, and who are Americans by birth, education and training—thus fulfilling the maxim, "Americans only shall govern America."

IX.—The reformation of the character of our National Legislature, by elevating to that dignified and responsible position men of higher qualifications, purer morals, and more unselfish patriotism.

X.—The restriction of executive patronage—especially in the matter of appointments to office—so far as it may be permitted by the Constitution, and consistent with the principle of the rotation of office.

XI.—The education of the youth of our country in schools provided by the State, which schools shall be common to all, without distinction of creed or party, and free from any influence or direction of a denominational or partisan character. And, inasmuch as Christianity by the constitutions of nearly all the States, and by the decisions of the most eminent judicial authorities; and by the consent of the people of America, is considered an element of our political system, and as the Holy Bible is at once the source of Christianity, and the depository and fountain of all civil and religious freedom, we oppose every attempt to exclude it from the schools thus established in the States.

XII.—The American party having arisen upon the ruins and in spite of the opposition of the Whig and Democratic party, cannot be held in any manner responsible for the obnoxious acts or violated pledges of either. And the systematic agitation of the slavery question by those parties having elevated sectional hostility into a positive element of political power, and brought the institutions into peril, it has therefore become the imperative duty of the American party to interpose, for the purpose of giving peace to the country and perpetuity to the Union.

And as experience has shown it impossible to reconcile opinions so extreme as those which separate the disputants, and as there can be no dishonor in submitting to the laws of the National Council has deemed it the best guarantee of common duty of the American party to abide by and maintain the existing laws upon the subject of slavery, as a final and conclusive settlement of that subject, in spirit and in substance.

And regarding it the highest duty to avow their opinions upon a subject so important, in distinct and unequivocal terms, it is hereby declared as the sense of this National Council that Congress possesses no power under the constitution to legislate upon the subject of slavery in the States, or to exclude the State from admission into the Union because her constitution does or does not recognize the institutions of slavery as part of her social system; and expressly pretermittting any expressions of opinion upon the power of Congress to establish or prohibit slavery in any territory. It is the sense of this National Council that Congress ought not to legislate upon the subject of slavery within the territories of the United States, and that any interference of Congress with slavery as it exists in the District of Columbia would be a violation of the spirit and intention of the compact by which the State of Maryland ceded the District to the United States, and a breach of the national faith.

XIII.—The policy of the government of the United States in relation to foreign governments is to exact justice from the strongest and do justice to the weakest; restraining, by all the power of the government, all its citizens from interference with the internal concerns of nations with whom we are at peace.

XIV.—This National Council declares that all the principles of the Order shall be henceforth held every where openly avowed; and that each member shall be at liberty to make known the existence of the Order, and the fact that he himself is a member; and it recommends that there be no concealment of the place of meeting of subordinate councils.

E. B. BARTLETT, of Kentucky,
President of National Convention.
C. D. DESHLER, of New Jersey,
Corresponding Secretary.
JAS. M. STEPHENS, of Maryland,
Recording Secretary.

A Noble Letter from Stephen A. Douglas.

The following is Senator Douglas' reply to an invitation of the Democratic party of the Louisville (Ky.) District, to be present at the celebration of the victory in the Old Dominion: